



For Immediate Release  
September 5, 2003

Contact: AoA Press Office  
(202) 401-4541

## **Media Advisory**

### **The U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) Partners with the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA), the National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPPIE) to Educate Area Seniors About Safe Use of Medications**

#### **Event is Part of HHS' Second Annual "Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day" Initiative**

Josefina G. Carbonell, Assistant Secretary for Aging in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will address D.C. area seniors September 9 to increase awareness about the importance of safe and effective medication management and other prevention messages. As many as one in five older Americans who live independently use prescription medicines that are considered potentially inappropriate. In order to ensure that messages about the safe use of prescription medicines reach at-risk seniors, AoA is partnering with the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA), the National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPPIE) and its member organizations: American Pharmacists Association; National Association of Chain Drug Stores; National Community Pharmacists Association; The Peter Lamy Center; and the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. These groups will provide an overview of medication management for area older residents and will also make available pharmacists who will talk in roundtable settings to small groups of seniors afterward about their medicines and medication management issues.

Also participating in the event will be Karyne Jones Conley, President and CEO of NCBA; Ray Bullman, Executive Vice President, NCPPIE; and Dr. Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

"Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day" is part of a national HHS campaign that aims to close the health gap between the health of communities of color and the general population. People can take charge of their health, and participating in "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day" can be a positive first step. HHS and AoA are emphasizing the importance of prevention activities through its second annual "Take Your Loved One to the Doctor Day", officially recognized as September 16 but emphasized throughout the year. HHS recommends regular visits to the

doctor, dentist, and pharmacist in order to ensure healthy living and healthy aging for all Americans, especially those who are disadvantaged.

A media opportunity will be available immediately following the event.

**When:** Tuesday, September 9, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** NCBA Estates  
2801 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC

**Contact:** AoA Press Office, (202) 401-4541

###

*The AoA is a Federal agency dedicated to policy development, planning and the delivery of supportive home and community-based services to older persons and their caregivers through the national aging network of state and local agencies on aging, tribal organizations, service providers and volunteers.*